

AMENDMENT TO CLAIMS

In the Claims

Please **Amend** claims 32 and 43 as set forth below.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

32. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument seal assembly for mounting to a cannula for insertion of a surgical instrument, the seal assembly comprising:

an upper body portion having an upper surface that defines a throughbore extending completely through the seal assembly;

a cylindrical wall protector integrally formed with the upper surface at the throughbore to project inwardly into an interior portion of said upper body portion at the throughbore;

a lower body portion projecting below the upper body portion wherein said lower body portion defines a cannula receiving opening adapted to mount the seal assembly on the cannula; and

a unitary valve seal including:

an upper seal portion having a mounting portion rigidly mounted in said upper body portion adjacent an interior portion of said upper body portion, the interior portion opposing the upper surface, said upper seal portion being mounted about the throughbore, said cylindrical wall protector located between the throughbore overlapping in a longitudinal direction, and separated from said upper seal wall and extending substantially into said upper seal portion; and

a lower seal portion extending from said upper seal portion, said lower seal portion being adapted to seal around the surgical instrument.

33. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 32, wherein said upper body portion further comprises an inner support member extending inwardly into the interior portion of said upper body.

34. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 32, wherein the inner support member engages with a shoulder formed on said lower body portion.

35. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 32, wherein said lower body portion comprises a transition wall which mates said upper body portion to said lower body portion, said transition wall is sloped.

36. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 35, further comprising a shoulder extending from said transition wall into an interior portion of said lower body portion, said shoulder of said transition wall mating with a shoulder of a inner support member.

37. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 36, further comprising a seal positioned between the shoulder of the inner support member and the shoulder of the transition wall.

38. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 32, wherein the valve seal is formed as a frusto-conical member having a first tapered wall that has a taper different from a second tapered wall.

39-42 (Cancelled).

43. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument seal assembly for mounting to a cannula for insertion of a surgical instrument, the seal assembly comprising:

an upper body portion having an upper surface that defines a throughbore extending completely through the seal assembly;

a cylindrical wall protector integrally formed with the upper surface at the throughbore having a substantially tubular construction that projects inwardly into an interior portion of said upper body portion at the throughbore;

a lower body portion projecting below the upper body portion wherein said lower body portion defines a cannula connection that connects the seal assembly to the cannula; and

a unitary valve seal including:

an upper seal portion having a mounting portion rigidly mounted in said upper body portion adjacent an interior portion of said upper body portion, the interior portion opposing the upper surface, said upper seal portion being mounted about the throughbore, said cylindrical wall protector located between the throughbore overlapping in a longitudinal direction, and separated from said upper seal wall and extending substantially into said upper seal portion; and

a lower seal portion extending from said upper seal portion, said lower seal portion being adapted to seal around the surgical instrument.

44. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 43, wherein said upper body portion further comprises an inner support member extending inwardly into the interior portion of said upper body.

45. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 43, wherein the inner support member engages with a shoulder formed on said lower body portion.

46. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 43, wherein said lower body portion comprises a transition wall which mates said upper body portion to said lower body portion, said transition wall is sloped.

47. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 46, further comprising a shoulder extending from said transition wall into an interior portion of said lower body portion, said shoulder of said transition wall mating with a shoulder of an inner support member.

48. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 47, further comprising a seal positioned between the shoulder of the inner support member and the shoulder of said transition wall.

49. (Previously Presented) The surgical instrument seal assembly of claim 43, wherein the valve seal is formed as a frusto-conical member having a first tapered wall that has a taper different from a second tapered wall.